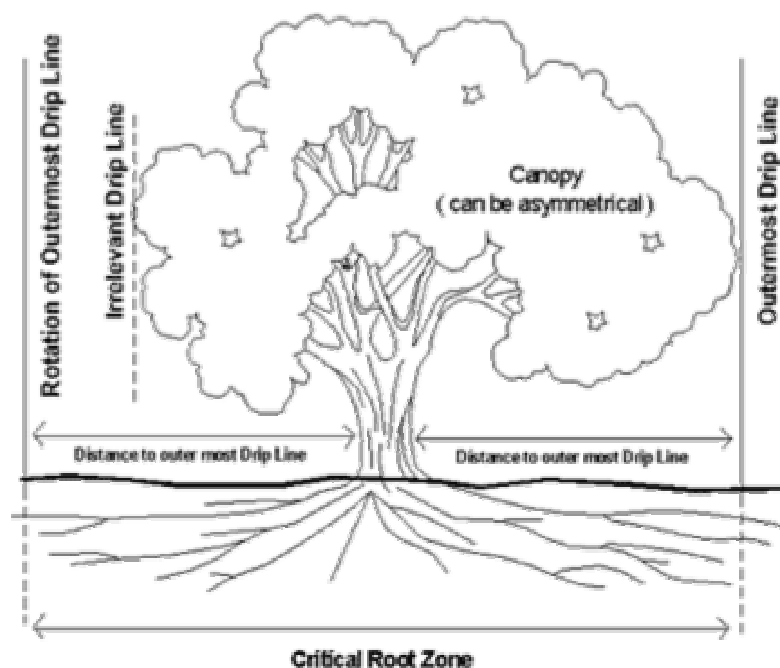


How to Mulch Properly

To get the best results from your mulch, layer it two to four inches and cover the entire root system, which may be two or three times the diameter of the branch spread of the tree. If you cannot mulch the entire area, try to mulch as much of the area under the drip line of the tree as possible. Do not cover the actual trunk of the tree with mulch. Leave a one or two inch space to avoid overly moist bark conditions that cause trunk decay. More than five inches of mulch can cause a problem for your tree, as it could inhibit gas exchange.



Mulch that is left around trees and shrubs year-round should be pulled away from the trunks in the fall to allow proper hardening of the bark. Thoroughly cover an area to a uniform depth to be most effective. Low or bare spots are prone to weed problems. Uneven mulch does not properly insulate the soil.



Correct Mulching Technique



Poor Mulching Technique